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GLOBAL SHIPPING GIANTS SET SAIL FOR A GREENER, CLEANER FUTURE

The largest shipping nations decided on Friday to impose a minimum tax of $100 for every tonne of carbon dioxide emitted by shipping vessels

AGREEMENT COMES INTO FORCE FROM 2028

The fee of $100 will be charged if nations have not contributed enough to the International Maritime Organization's net-zero fund and their ships are not meeting their compliance target. Members of the International Maritime Organization — with the United States noticeably absent — reached the agreement which will come into force by 2028

'HISTORIC, BUT MORE COULD'VE BEEN DONE'

- Some environmentalists present at the meeting called the emission taxes a "historic decision" but said more could have been achieved
- The tax doesn't capture all emissions or drive enough emission reductions and it won't raise enough revenue to help developing countries transition to greener shipping, said a shipping expert | P13

3%

IS THE EMISSIONS FROM SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN GLOBAL TRADE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Grilling of Rana focuses on ISI, Lashkar's role

NIA gets 18-day custody, aims to unravel the conspiracy behind the 26/11 attacks in 2008

MUKESH RANJAN & JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

A day after Tahawwur Rana was extradited to India, the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused was taken from his cell at the NIA headquarters to the interrogation room in the same building in the national capital on Friday. He was confronted with initial questions relating to his handlers in Pakistan, his funding and business partners, and sleeper cells in India with whom he was connected to, sources said.

Rana was asked to provide details about the visit of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operative Sajid Mir to India under the pretext of watching a cricket match and whether anyone accompanied Rana to the locations where he allegedly provided video footage to Mir.

Rana's interrogation will take place on three counts — establishing identity and his intent, the 26/11 attack and ISI nexus and his links with LeT.

NIA also want details about who all helped Rana's friend David Coleman Headley in India and who received money for it. Headley is one of the prime accused in the case.

As part of the first round of questioning relating to establishing identity and intent, NIA sleuths tried to get his personal details, including his upbringing, education, family and career and his transition from a trained doctor to a conspirator in international terrorism, sources said.

NIA interrogators also questioned him whethere his family knew about his alleged links to Headley and about how they planned and executed the terror plot, apart from his physical location on November 26, 2008, when the attacks began.

During subsequent rounds of questioning, Rana is going to be asked when he met LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and what was the nature of their relationship. He will also be asked if he could identify other members of the LeT by name, face, or their role, the sources added.

The final round of questioning will revolve around involvement of ISI, sources said.

US Secretary of State welcomes extradition

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio welcomed the extradition of Rana to India, calling it a long-overdue moment of justice for the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

BJP seals poll deal; AIADMK to lead bloc

T MURUGANANDAM @ Chennai

NEARLY two years after they parted ways, the AIADMK and the BJP on Friday joined hands to resurrect their alliance to "unseat the corrupt DMK government" in the 2026 Assembly election.

Union Minister Amit Shah, who declared the sealing of the alliance at a press meet in Chennai, declared that the NDA will fight the election under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national level, and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami in Tamil Nadu.

Signalling a tectonic shift in Tamil Nadu's politics, when asked whether it will be a coalition government if the alliance wins, Shah answered in the affirmative. It is pertinent to note that the DMK and the AIADMK, which alternatively ruled the state for several decades, never yielded to a coalition government despite facing almost all elections in alliance with several other parties.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and former TN CM Edappadi K Palaniswami with AIADMK and BJP leaders in Chennai on Friday | PJAWAHAR

The AIADMK exited the NDA in September 2023, seven months before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, citing the "confrontational approach" of Tamil Nadu BJP's state leadership without naming its president K Annamalai. The change in BJP's state leadership also happened on Friday with the party's Assembly floor leader Nainar Nagenthran being the lone contender for the BJP top post.

He is expected to take charge from Annamalai formally on Saturday. Shah, however, denied AIADMK had made any demands to remove Annamalai from the post for it to join the alliance. Though Palaniswami, Annamalai, Nagenthran and senior AIADMK leaders KP Munusamy and SP Velumani were on the dais, only Shah spoke.

A note from BJP, summarising the remarks made by Shah, highlighted his answer to a question that the distribution of seats and allocation of ministries post election will be finalised in consultation with alliance partners at an appropriate time, indicating that BJP is clear about being part of the government if the alliance wins.

3 create fake govt email ID, transfer ₹1.32 cr from pvt bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CYBER crime police have arrested three people for cheating a private bank by creating a fake state government email ID and sending 18 fake court orders to it to transfer Rs 1.32 crore from two frozen accounts.

The accused have been identified as Abhimanyu Kumar Panday and Neeraj Singh of New Delhi and Sagar Lakura, a resident of Rajasthan.

According to police sources, Sagar created the government email ID, cb-crime-sog@karnataka.gov.in, by providing false information to the Karnataka State Wide Area Network (KSWAN), developed by the Centre for e-governance of the state government to provide secure network connectivity and bandwidth upgradation on-demand to user departments across the state. Using this email ID, the accused sent fake court order copies to the nodal email ID of the private bank at Halasuru Gate in Bengaluru, where some accounts had been frozen on court orders. The accused had gathered details of frozen bank accounts online, the sources said. P5

WHY U.S. TARIFF WAR HURTS CHINA

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE US is one of the biggest trading partners of China. It makes China particularly exposed to tariff pressures.

According to data from Beijing's customs authorities, in 2024, Chinese exports to the US exceeded $500 billion, accounting for 16.4% of the country's total exports. It imports from the US were worth $143.5 billion, with much of that trade centred around agricultural products — particularly oilseeds and grains — according to the US Trade Representative's office.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, head of a joint UN-WTO agency, warned that the "economic fallout from escalating US-China tariffs could be more damaging than cuts to foreign aid." She added that this "escalation could result in an 80% drop in trade between the US and China, with catastrophic ripple effects globally". According to experts, tariff restructuring would have serious ramifications on developing countries. An estimate published by the International Trade Centre suggests the tariff restructuring is going to cause a 3-7% decline in global trade and a 0.7% drop in global GDP, with developing economies being hit the hardest.

The report, using Bangladesh as a case study, showed that US tariffs of 37% on textiles could cost $3.3 billion in economic losses for that country.

As for Sri Lanka, its economic recovery would be impeded, as exports to the US have been tariffed at 44%. The US is the largest buyer of Sri Lanka's exports (25% of its $12 billion merchandise exports goes to the US).

Industrial output slows to 2.9%

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDUSTRIAL output growth slowed to a six-month low of 2.9% in February, down from 5% in the previous year, amid growing concerns over the impact of the ongoing tariff war on economic growth. The decline was largely attributed to a high base effect, with the growth rate in February last year recorded at 5.6%. The slowdown was evident across two major categories, mining and manufacturing, with mining experiencing the most significant decline.Mining output growth declined to 1.6% in February compared to 4.4% in January and 8.1% in February last year. Manufacturing output growth also halved to 2.9% in February from 5.8% in January. Electricity generation, however, maintained the momentum with 3.6% growth compared to 2.4% in January.

According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA, while the growth performance of mining is expected to deteriorate in March 2025 relative to February 2025, it is likely to be offset by an uptick in electricity generation, amid steadymanufacturing growth. In use-based categories, consumer nondurables output shrank by 2.1% against a contraction of 0.3% witnessed in the previous month.

EXCLUSIVE

ED says Siddu's secretary got Parvathy sites, Lokayukta denies

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

WHILE the ED claimed that there was undue influence by CM Siddaramaiah's then personal assistant SG Dinesh Kumar aka CT Kumar in the allotment of 14 compensatory sites to his (CM's) wife BM Parvathy, the closure report submitted by the Lokayukta police in the MUDA case stated that no such influence was established during its probe.

Though the focal point of the probe was illegal allotment of sites to Parvathy and the same was established, the final report stated it was an instance of 134 cases, where 1,095 sites worth Rs 700 crore were illegally allotted to several people, including realtors, before and after allotment of sites to Parvathy. According to ED, which shared details with the Lokayukta police, Kumar forged Parvathy's signature in the application seeking allotment of compensatory sites. Siddaramaiah was LoP in the Assembly and his son Yathindra Siddaramaiah, the then MLA of Varuna constituency, was an ex-officio member of MUDA when the transaction took place, indicating undue influence by Kumar to allot sites to Parvathy. P5

EXPRESS READ

Varanasi gangrape disturbing: PM

Lucknow: Expressing anguish and concern over the alleged gangrape of a 19-year-old girl in Varanasi early this month, PM Narendra Modi, during his 50th visit to his parliamentary constituency on Friday, took a detailed briefing from the police and sought the strictest action against the accused| P10

SIT to probe 40% commission charge

Bengaluru: Karnataka Cabinet has decided to form a SIT to conduct further probe into the 40% commi-ssion allegation against the previous BJP gover-nment by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association, in light of the Justice HN Nagamohan Das Commission report| P4

Siddu calls special cabinet meeting on April 17 to discuss caste census report

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said that a special cabinet meeting will be held on April 17 to discuss the socio-economic and educational survey report, popularly known as caste census, conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

"The report was presented before the cabinet on Friday, but some ministers wanted to go through its recommendations. Hence, a decision on the report will be taken at the cabinet meeting on Thursday after a thorough discussion," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

A clear picture on the population of different communities will be known once the report is made public. The survey was conducted by the commission headed by H Kantharaju.

According to sources, tabling of the caste census report before the cabinet was deferred twice. This was because ministers hailing from Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities claimed that the survey was conducted in an unscientific manner and the population of their communities was undercounted. Even DCM DK Shivakumar backed the Vokkaliga community's demand for a new survey. However, leaders of AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits) demanded that the report be tabled and its recommendations implemented.

Tabling of the report at the Friday's meeting was the result of Siddaramaiah's recent meeting with LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who is a proponent of the caste census at the national level. It was because of this, no minister opposed tabling of the report at the cabinet meeting, the sources said. P4

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>
> Siddaramaiah, CM

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